

VALLEY QUEEN RETTED STILL

Tom C. Gray, superintendent of the Valley Queen, came in from the mine last night on a business visit. Work now, Mr. Gray says, is being prosecuted on the main crosscut. The recent stringer encountered indicates that a ledge is being approached to which it is a feeder. It is figured that either the main Valley Queen ledge is being approached, or another which has not hitherto entered into the calculation. The stringer in itself is rich. Assays from it go \$48 in gold.

Preliminary surveys have been completed and it is the opinion that the present shaft over the divide is the proper place for permanent sinking. The bottom of the shaft now down fifty-two feet shows a good body of ore, with assays running as high as \$38.

The character of the rock in the crosscut has proven much softer and better progress is being made. Mr. Gray says that the showing of the property is better than at any previous period in its history.

RUSHING WORK AT BLUE BIRD MILL

O. C. Wright, general manager of the Blue Bird, returned last night from this property.

Millwright Potter, of Baker City, and a full force of men are there on the mill construction. The object is to push the work to completion. The plant will probably be finished in thirty days. Of course, it can not be definitely stated, but the present progress of the work looks like it can be completed in this time.

A big force from the Virtue mine was brought in to do the work, and no time will be lost.

Myrtle Creek Placers.

John Clement took his departure last Saturday for the Myrtle Creek placers mines with a back load of supplies. He goes over to commence work on a large ditch, which when completed, will carry ample water for the operation of the Myrtle Creek placers during the entire summer season. This mining property was discovered several years ago, but water has been too scarce for its operation to any great extent, having heretofore depended wholly on water that flowed in the gulches during the melting snow. He has surveyed a ditch which when constructed, will render it possible for him to have at least 150 inches at all times during the year.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

TONOPAH AND GOLDFIELD AT POINT OF STARVATION

Reno, Nevada, August 25.—Cloud-bursts and washouts in Tonopah and along the lines of the Tonopah and Carson & Colorado railroad were the most disastrous in the history of these districts. On the Tonopah road all of the track rebuilt after the last washout has been swept away, and it will be a week before any traffic can be resumed. At Walker Lake, near Hawthorne, the track is under three

feet of water for nearly four miles and the lake has risen above its level from six to nine feet. Great chasms have been washed in the desert and traffic is in a state of chaos.

Tonopah and Goldfields, which are on the verge of starvation, are being temporarily relieved by the rushing in of supplies via Crow Springs, Silver Peak and Candelaria by wagon trains, but this is only temporary, as over 5000 people must be fed in the different camps and extraordinary measures adopted for their relief. Food supplies at the camps are practically exhausted. Flour, bacon and all staples have run out, only canned goods remaining. Heroic measures are being adopted and with the resumption of stage lines relief is hoped for.

While the situation is critical and much suffering must be endured it is hoped that the next few days will bring about better conditions.

MACHINERY FOR HUMBOLDT MILL

J. W. Wright came in from the Humboldt, in the Greenhorns, today, where he is engaged in erecting boarding houses and buildings for the new mill to go in.

Mr. Wright is here to get teams to haul the machinery for the mill from Greenhorn to the property. The boarding house, a nine room building, has been completed, and work will be started next week on the mill building. The machinery is to be placed at once. It is a three stamp Merrill plant.

HIGH GRADE ORE AT THE MOUNTAIN MEADOW MINE

A. W. Ellis is exhibiting some very fine gold sulphide ore today which came from the Mountain Meadow, over in the Rock Creek district. There are four claims in the group owned by Mr. Ellis, George Turner and the Biswell estate.

The ore shown by Mr. Ellis is very high grade. It came from a two foot streak in the main drift. Some high assays have previously been received from this property.

May Build This Fall.

Joseph West, chief engineer of the Sumpter Valley, and H. Belknap, a prominent lumberman of Ogden, went through to Baker from Tipton this afternoon. Mr. Belknap is making a general visit to eastern Oregon. Regarding the John Day extension, Mr. West says he is to meet President Eccles in Baker and the matter of building this fall will be decided upon. Some grading, however, has been done beyond Tipton, and the survey is well under way.

Faith in the Standard.

F. M. Riley, of Des Moines, Iowa, who is with the Killen, Warner, Stewart company, and Dr. J. L. Williamson, also of Des Moines, left today for the Standard. Dr. Williamson came in several days ago, but owing to sickness could not visit the property sooner. He says his Iowa friends pin absolute faith in the Standard and its management. They have no doubt as to the ultimate outcome of the property.

The Miner does job printing.

IRON DEPOSITS ON DEER CREEK

W. G. Ballou is in today from Deer Creek, where he is operating the Iron Mask, a two claim property upon which he recently began work.

The claims show an unusually high per cent of iron, something uncommon in this district. Mr. Ballou brought in samples which assayed at the smelter ran \$10 in gold, nine-tenths ounces of silver and forty-five per cent iron. He has drifted thirty or forty feet on the vein, which shows the ore for the full width of the drift. The vein has not yet been crosscut and its width is, therefore, not known. The ore appears to be red hematite, very rich in iron, not to mention the gold and silver values. It is valuable from the fact that the smelter will take the ore for flux.

WAS INJURED AT THE RUBY MINE

Edwin Zeleny, who has charge of the work at the Ruby mine, six miles from Sumpter, met with a serious accident yesterday while at work in the tunnel. A stone weighing some 150 pounds fell from the roof upon his neck as he was kneeling and drilling. That he escaped a broken neck is a miracle. His back was injured and where his chin struck his knee, hurt his chin besides cutting through his tongue. One hand also was bruised.

Assistance was summoned, and today Mr. Zeleny was taken to the home of his brother-in-law, T. K. Clark, of Baker City, general manager of the property. Mr. Zeleny is a student of the Case school of applied sciences at Cleveland, Ohio, and is doing practical work now connection with his studies.

MAY QUEEN MILL STARTED YESTERDAY

John Thomson, manager of the May Queen, returned from the mine today and left for Baker City.

The mill, Mr. Thomson says, was started yesterday for the purpose of making a test run. There are between 300 and 400 tons of ore on the dumps and the plant will probably be kept in operation for the next thirty day. The May Queen has a ten stamp mill.

PREHISTORIC WATER DAM ON STRAWBERRY BUTTE

A traveler returning from the John Day today and passing through to Baker City on his way east tells a remarkable story of a discovery made in the Strawberry Butte region. His name is Christopher T. Vernelson, and he hails originally from Albany, New York. He has been looking after mining interests in the Quartzburg district. Relative to his discovery he says:

"In company with several mining men, friends and acquaintances of mine, I journeyed through the vari-

ous ranges of mountains known by the general though somewhat indefinite name of Strawberry Butte. In one of the canyons cutting into the main opening, we discovered what we believed after mature observation to be prehistoric dam dating back for probably hundreds or thousands of years. While digging on the mountain side looking for mineral bearing lodes, we came across some ancient masonry, which had evidently been used for the purpose of damming the small water course which finds its way through the canyon, and furnishing power for some prehistoric machine. The antiquity of the work is evidenced in the fact that by natural wear the water had cut through the solid masonry, and worn it down until only the abutments projecting from the mountain side were left, and these were so deeply covered by talus from the neighboring slopes as to render them invisible and unsuspected to casual observation. It was only the accidental prospecting which brought the old masonry up to light.

"I have only a general theory to offer," continued Mr. Vernelson. "The water power furnished must have been of enormous force, and the only conjecture I can frame is that it must have been used for the operation of some ancient mills or other works used in prehistoric times by some ancient inhabitants of the John Day valley. No trace of any machines, however, could be found, though we searched diligently."

Baker-La Grande Electric Road.

The eastern Oregon electric line scheme of Dr. J. M. Boyd, father of Mayor L. Frank Boyd, contemplates a road from Baker City to La Grande, forty-five miles, which will take in the towns of Haines, Union and Hot Lake. A branch line to swing around the Grand Ronde valley is also talked of. Dr. Boyd said: "The plans are only begun for the project. An expert street car man and a corps of engineers will leave for the ground tomorrow and when they report we will know what we have. We have the promise of eastern money to back the proposed road when we have made the survey, secured the power and have title to the right of way. I own considerable property in Baker City, some of which will be used for terminal grounds."—Spokesman Review.

Lawton Sold by Sheriff.

The property of the Lawton Investment company was sold at sheriff's sale last Saturday to E. J. Summerville for \$3,000, on an execution to satisfy a judgement in favor of Lina H. Sturgis. The property sold includes the townsite of Lawton, a boom town in the Greenhorn mountains two miles west of Granite.—Canyon City Eagle.

Land Withdrawn from Reserve.

Seymour Bell has returned from a trip to La Grande, where he went to look over the official plats of the quarter of a million acres of land recently withdrawn from the temporary forest reserve. He says that very much the larger portion of it has already been entered; many homesteads, some desert, and timber claims and a few tracts have been script. There are very few quarters, comparatively speaking, that will tempt settlers to file.

WANTED—Twenty cords of black or yellow pine, four-foot cord wood. Enquire Miner office.